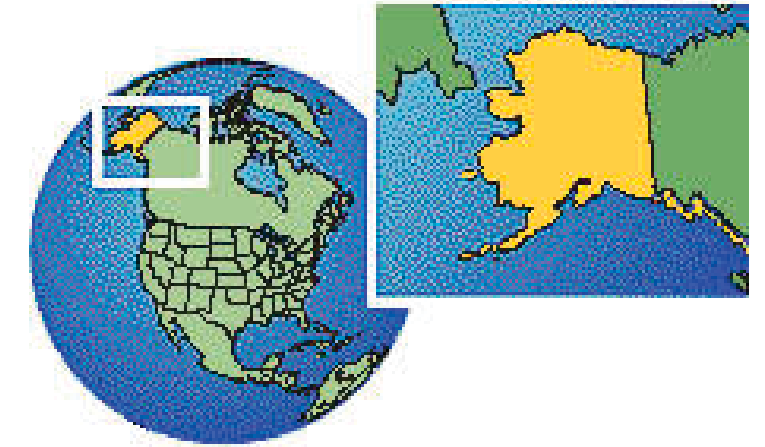


# Alaska Poison Control System - 2002 Annual Report



**POISON**  
**Hel****p**<sup>TM</sup>  
**1-800-222-1222**

**In Partnership with the Oregon Poison Center**

# ALASKA POISON CONTROL SYSTEM 2002 ANNUAL REPORT



## CALLS BY REGION

Far North	199
Interior	791
Southwest	471
Southcentral	4862
Southeast	674

Alaska is a land of abundant waters, rugged terrain, and extreme climates. Cold, darkness, ice, and vast distances between communities often means limited access to medical care.

Over 390 Alaskans died from poisoning during 1990-1998; almost two-thirds (63%) were due to unintentional poisoning. (Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2001)

Alaska and Oregon have been partners in the national poison control system since September 1, 2001. The Oregon Poison Center handles the calls from the national hotline, and a member of Alaska's Injury Prevention program staff manages poison prevention education.

## SUBSTANCES INVOLVED

Poison Exposure Type	Ages ≤ 5	Ages 6-12	Ages ≥ 20
Alcohols	49	32	95
Arts/Craft Supplies	76	19	10
Chemicals	43	31	74
Cleaning Supplies/Household	305	41	125
Cosmetics	409*	34	74
Food products/food poisoning	43	22	92
Foreign bodies/toys/coins/etc.	183**	41	24
Hydrocarbons/gasoline/lamp oil	66	29	106
Pesticides	92	12	29
Plants	164	40	41
<b>Medications</b>			
Acetaminophen	113	78	116
Aspirin	15	15	13
Ibuprofen	73	46	42
Antidepressants	43	35	114
Antihistamines	80	29	50
Antibiotics	62	22	30
Cold/Cough	157	57	41
Antacids	62	6	3
Sedatives	24	22	115
Topical preparations/rash ointments	220	8	26
Vitamins	131	26	19

## CALL TYPE

Most of the calls received by the Oregon Poison Center were human exposure calls.

Human Exposure Calls	70%
Animal Exposure Calls	3%*
Non-Exposure Calls	(under 1%)
Information Calls	27%**

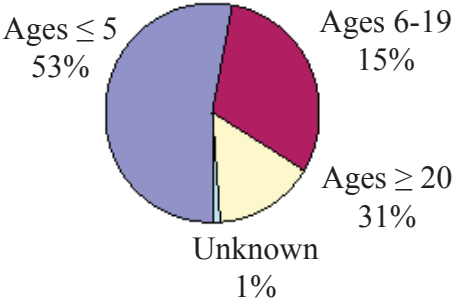
\*The Oregon Poison Center would prefer not to get animal exposure calls; a national hotline number is available from the American Association for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

## \*\*INFORMATION CALLS

Drug Identification calls accounted for 36% of the information calls received. Education efforts to encourage use of local pharmacies for drug identification calls are continuing.

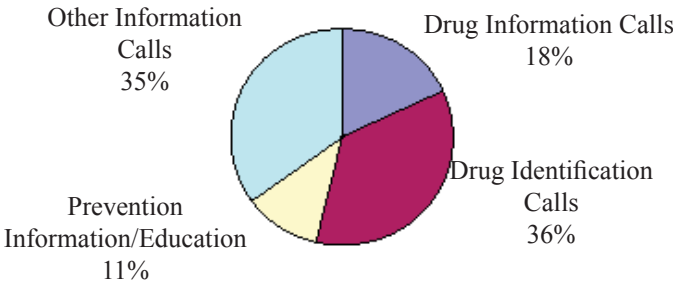
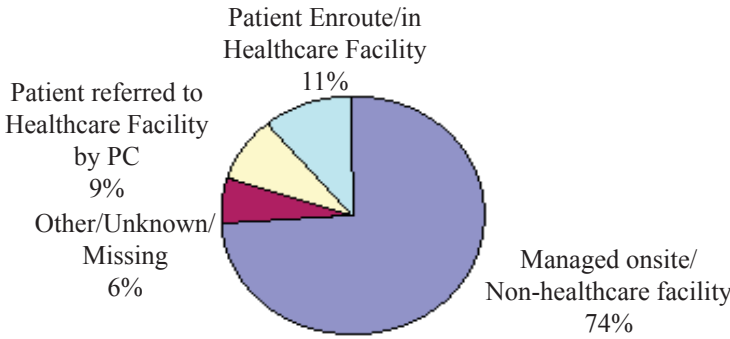
## PATIENT AGE

Children 5 years and under account for the majority (53%) of the exposures reported to the Poison Control System.



## MANAGEMENT SITE

66% of the children 5 years and under were able to be treated without going to a healthcare facility. Of all exposure calls, 74% were able to be managed on site rather than at a healthcare facility.



*Type of Cosmetics/Personal Care Products	Ages ≤ 5
Bath oil/bubble bath	23
Toothpaste	85
Cream/lotion/make-up	39
Deodorant	26
Nail Polish	27
Polish Remover	24
Perfume	30
Peroxide	31
<b>**Foreign bodies</b>	
Desiccants/silica gel packets	76

The most common substances reported in exposure cases were medications, household cleaning substances, and cosmetics/personal care products. Most often, incidents involving children ages 5 and under are due to the child getting into medications belonging to a relative living in or visiting the home, or with whom the child was visiting. Other common causes of medication exposures involve children being given an incorrect dosage or the wrong medication. More education is needed for caregivers about the necessity of keeping medications out of children's reach.